IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXPRESS MAIL EV 327674211 US

No.:

APPLICANT(s): THOMAS et al.

SERIAL NO.:

ART UNIT:

FILING DATE: Herewith

EXAMINER:

TITLE:

EXCHANGEABLE KEYMAT

ATTORNEY

DOCKET NO.: 684-011708-US (PAR)

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(1))

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed together with the above-identified patent application. Thus, a certification under 37 C.F.R. 1.97 (e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) is not required for the information herein to be considered.

The following information is being disclosed to the Patent and Trademark Office as information that may be material to the examination of the above-identified patent application. Applicants' Attorney is aware of the following references:

US 2003/0201983 EP 1 028 574

Copies of all references are enclosed together with a Form PTO-1449.

The filing of this Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made regarding the claimed invention (37 C.F.R. §1.97(g)) or that no other possible material information exists. In addition, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability (37 C.F.R. §1.97(h)).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION FORM FOR			Docket No.: 684-011708-US (PAR)		Serial N	lo.:	
PATENT APPLICATION (FORM PTO-1449)			Applicant(s): THOMAS et al.				
(Substitute)			Filing Date: Herewith		Group:		
			U.S. PATENTS				
Initials	Patent Number	Issue Date	Name		Class	Sub- class	Filing date
			U.S. PATENT PUBLICATI	ONS			
Initials	Publication No.	Pub. Date	Name		Class	Sub- class	Filing Date
	2003/0201983	10/30/03	Jokinen et al.		345	169	4/30/02
		FOI	 REIGN PATENT DOCUMEN	NTS		<u> </u>	
Initials	Document Number	Date	Country		Name		Translation? Yes/No/n/a
	EP 1028574	16.08.00	EPO		Mobile I	N/A	
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Title, Author, Date, Pages, Etc., if known)							
							
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